

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2016, unless otherwise noted)

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*Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.*

<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1 - February 28</i>	<i>due March 20</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1 - May 31</i>	<i>due June 20</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1 - July 31</i>	<i>due August 20</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 1 - November 30</i>	<i>due December 20</i>

*Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.*

*Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.*

*Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.*

*I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.*

*If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.*

*Reports published herein may include sightings that require review by the state bird record's committee. Such reports are not considered accepted records until, and unless, they are so ruled by the committee.*

Abbreviations: **BBS** – Breeding Bird Survey, **Co** – County, **et al.** – and others, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** Sightings made in NC included six photographed in Mann's Harbor, Dare Co, NC, 3-4 Jul (Cyndy Holda); two photographed along Hewletts Creek in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 7 Jul (William McCrea); and one at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 10-12 Jul (*vide* Susan Campbell). SC's high count for the period was 17, including six juveniles, on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Jul (Jeff Kline, et al.).

**Tundra Swan:** One, possibly sick or injured, seen and photographed on a pond along US-64 just east of Roper, Washington Co, NC, 24-26 Jun (Sam Cooper) was unusual for the summer period.

**American Wigeon:** A drake at the Lake Landing impoundments of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 10 Jun (Lucas Bobay) was late to depart.

**Blue-winged Teal:** A drake summered on a pond at Archie Elledge WTP (limited access), Forsyth Co, NC, from the beginning of the period through 19 Jul (m. obs.).

**Redhead:** A hen continued from the spring on the pond adjacent to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, throughout the summer (John Fussell, Marty Wall, et al.). Up to four drakes lingered on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, during the summer (Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.).

**Ring-necked Duck:** A drake seen on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 14 Jun (Allison Gagnon) and 26 Jun (Ken Bennett) may have been the same individual that summered there in previous years.

**Black Scoter:** Six off the beach in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 11 Jun (Eric Soehren) was a good count for June.

**Common Merganser:** Evidence of breeding in the NC mountains was found again this year when a hen, probably the same individual seen there with a drake 24 Apr (Paul Carroll), was seen with six juveniles on the Tuskasegee River near Dillsboro, Jackson Co, NC, 9 Jun (Marion & Terence Schiefer). Also, a hen was seen flying down the Little Tennessee River at Needmore Game Land, Swain Co, NC, 7 Jun (Jeremy Hyman).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Of the dozen or so that lingered along the Carolina coast this summer, a hen seen from the Bulls Island Ferry, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Jul (Jeff Kline, David McLean) remained the latest.

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals were seen at four sites in NC this summer—in Buxton, Dare Co, 13 Jun (Martin Sneary); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 17 Jun (Peggy Eubank, et al.); in Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, where photographed, 30 Jun (Dave Hart); and at a feeder near Lilesville, Anson Co, for two days in early July (Claire Dayton).

**Common Nighthawk:** One seen performing its aerial display over a section of the Croatan National Forest near Havelock, Craven Co, NC, 25 Jun (John Fussell) was unusual for that area. Fussell believes the nighthawk's presence was due to the area having been burned two weeks prior, temporarily providing bare ground.

**Black Rail:** Along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, two were heard calling 9 Jun (John Fussell) and one was heard calling 26 Jun (Fussell, et al.). Individuals were also heard calling at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 4 Jun (Matt Malin, Mark Vukovich) and 7 Jul (Dennis Forsythe); and at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 10 Jul (Jeri Smart, Christine Stoughton-Root).

**King Rail:** One heard at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jun through 10 Jul, and four heard there 19 Jun (John Fussell) were unusual for that site, probably related to the above-average rainfall in May and June that created wetter habitat.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Eight were on territory along the 3.7 mile barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jun (John Fussell).

**American Avocet:** 12 photographed at Cane Creek Park, Union Co, NC, 26 Jul (George Andrews) were the first for that county. Individuals photographed at Badin Lake, Stanly Co, NC, 7 Jul (Kevin Airington) and at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 27 Jul (Jill Paul, Mark Kosiewski, m. obs.) were also good finds for those inland sites.

**Wilson's Plover:** Eight territorial pairs along the 3.7 mile barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jun (John Fussell) was a nice total for that "inland shoreline."

**Piping Plover:** One on the barrier strand near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Jul (John Fussell, et al.) was unusual for that site away from the ocean.

**Upland Sandpiper:** One photographed at the Oakland Plantation Turf Farm, Bladen Co, NC, 12 Jul (Marty Wall) was a nice surprise. Up to four were seen in the grassy areas around Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 16 Jul (Sam Cooper) into August (m. obs.).

**Long-billed Curlew:** A report of four at Lookout Bight, Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jul (Ann Brice) would tie NC's record high count if accurate.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** One at the new inlet just south of South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 16-17 Jul (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.) was rather early.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** An adult female photographed at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 2 Jun (Scott Adams, m. obs.) was a fantastic find for that inland site.

**South Polar Skua:** One seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.) was the summer's only sighting.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** One photographed on the beach at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 17 Jun (Michael Gosselin) may have been sick or injured.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** An adult was seen feeding just offshore of Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Jun (Sam Cooper).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** An immature gull seen and photographed in a yard in

Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 21-22 Jun (Kate Sutherland) was quite unusual for the summer period.

**Noddy species:** A noddy, most likely a Brown Noddy, was briefly seen in flight over a streak of Sargassum about 30 miles off of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, during a pelagic trip 5 Jun (Kate Sutherland, et al.). It's been over a decade since the previous sighting of a noddy in NC.

**Caspian Tern:** One photographed over Cane Creek Lake, Union Co, NC, 28 Jul (George Andrews) was somewhat unusual for that relatively small body of water.

**Roseate Tern:** Individuals were photographed on the beach at Fort Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 22 Jun (Nick Bonomo, et al.); at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 24 Jun (Michael Gosselin); and from the beach in Corolla, Currituck Co, NC, 15 Jul (Manuel Morales).

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** On pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, individuals were seen 2 Jul and 16 Jul, and three tropicbirds were seen 21 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Red-throated Loon:** One photographed at Murrells Inlet, Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 1 Jun (Eric Elvert) was late to depart.

**Black-capped Petrel:** A sick or injured individual was photographed on the beach near Avon, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jun (Adair McNear).

**Great Shearwater:** 175, about 150 of which were part of two large "beehive" feeding flocks of tubenoses, seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 25 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a notable count.

**European Storm-Petrel:** One seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare



Black-necked Stilt, 8 July 2016, Carteret Co, NC. Photo by Greg Perry.

Co, NC, 29 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.) was later in the season than all previous sightings off the North Carolina coast.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** Sightings included an immature bird photographed off Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston Co, SC, 3 Jun (Lacy & Russell Johnson); one off the south end of Pawleys Island, Georgetown Co, SC, 6 Jun (Nancy Devine); two immature birds off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Jun (Derb Carter); an immature bird photographed between Avon and Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 12 Jun (Michael Gosselin); an immature bird photographed off the Core Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Jun (Tully Hochhausler); an immature bird photographed off Folly Beach, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Jun (Jay Wherley); and an adult female off Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 5 Jul (Jason Weller).

**Brown Booby:** The individual found on Lookout Shoals Lake, border of Catawba Co and Iredell Co, NC, in late May, continued in that area throughout the summer (m. obs.). One was also seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 15 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Anhinga:** Individuals photographed at Fants Grove WMA, Anderson Co, SC, 25-29 Jul (Kevin Kubach) and at Cane Creek Park, Union Co, NC, 26 Jul (George Andrews) were unusual for those sites in the Piedmont.

**American White Pelican:** One lingered at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, until 24 Jun (Susan Campbell). 27 photographed at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 15 Jun (James Hausman, et al.) was nice for the summer.

**Least Bittern:** 62 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 3 Jul, was a remarkable count, possibly the highest ever made in North Carolina. Of that total, 21 were seen along NC-12 (John Fussell) and 41 were seen while kayaking along the John Day Ditch canal (Steve Howell).

**Reddish Egret:** One continuing from late May on a spoil island in the Pamlico Sound near the Ocracoke Ferry Terminal, Hyde Co, NC, 10 Jun (Matt Janson, et al.) and 20 Jun (Jamie Adams) was our northern-most sighting. A very pale immature egret spent several weeks around Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, where it was seen and photographed by many, 26 Jun (Dave Hart) through 16 Jul (Sam Cooper).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** A juvenile photographed on the Watauga River near Valle Crucis, Watauga Co, NC, 17 Jul (Shellie Karaus) was unusual for that area of NC.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** A few of the higher counts at sites along the southern SC coast were 12 at Shammy Creek Landing, Beaufort Co, 9-12 Jun (Buddy Campbell); 33 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, 10 Jun (Tom Riley); 16 at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, 24 Jun (Campbell); 37 at a known roost site on Johns Island, Charleston Co, 24 Jun (Jake Zadik); and 17 on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, 2 Jul (Juliana Smith).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Several impressive counts were made in the vicinity of Lock & Dam No. 1, along the Cape Fear River in southeastern Bladen

Co, NC—17 over a field along NC-87 near Zara, 8 Jun (Jan Hansen); 12 in a pine tree along the river about two and a half miles upstream of the dam, 28 Jun (John Carpenter); and 17 around the dam itself, 16 Jul (Marty Wall). Eight over a solar farm just south of Maxton, Robeson Co, NC, 18 Jul (Ric Lawson) were noteworthy. The high count over agricultural fields in Allendale Co, SC, was 100 on 21 Jul (Buddy Campbell). Outside of the species' typical range were individuals over North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jun (John Fussell, et al.); over Salvo, Dare Co, NC, 8 Jun (Michael Gosselin); over Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 6 Jul (Audrey Whitlock); and over Gunter Rd, Greenville Co, SC, 16 Jul (Joan Baker, et al.).

**Mississippi Kite:** A pair successfully nested near Taylors, Greenville Co, SC, where two adults were seen tending to a nest with at least one juvenile, in June and July (m. obs.). One seen on a BBS route in Currituck Co, NC, 4 Jun (Jeff Lewis) was a first for that observer on that route.

**Northern Harrier:** An adult female was seen at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, on multiple dates in June and July (Steve Howell, John Fussell, et al.), though breeding at that site was not detected this year. One over agricultural fields adjacent to Schenck Forest, Wake Co, NC, 23 Jul (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.) was likely an early fall arrival.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Breeding was suspected on Collington Island, Dare Co, NC, again this year, as two juveniles were seen during the summer (Jeff Lewis).

**Barn Owl:** Locally unusual was one seen along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Jun (Marty Wall) and a moribund individual found along NC-12 near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 23 Jul (Jeff Lewis). Successful nesting took place in agricultural areas of Anderson Co, SC, 20 Jun (Michael Robertson, et al.) and Chesterfield Co, SC, 28 Jun (Ryan Lubbers).



Black-crowned Night-Heron, 10 June 2016, Charleston Co, SC.  
Photo by David Youngblood.



White Ibis, 6 July 2016, Carteret Co, NC. Photo by Greg Perry.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Chicks fledged from occupied owl boxes at the three different sites in the NC mountains in June—two in the Balsam Mountains, Haywood Co, 7-8 Jun; three along the Pisgah Ridge, Transylvania Co, 7-12 Jun; and three at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 20-23 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal).

**Crested Caracara:** North Carolina's first Crested Caracara was a juvenile bird seen and photographed by many near the old site of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 17 Jun (Michael Gosselin) through 12 Jul (Karen Lebing).

**Peregrine Falcon:** This species successfully bred on a rock ledge at Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, NC, again this year, with an adult seen tending to two juveniles, 4 Jun (George Ivey, et al.).

**Nanday Parakeet:** The released exotic marked its seventh anniversary of residence in downtown Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, in late July (John Fussell, m. obs.).

**Alder Flycatcher:** A couple of the better counts were five at Black Balsam Knob, Haywood Co, NC, 20 Jul (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly) and four+ on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the period (Rick Knight). Singing males were locally unusual at Meat Camp Creek ESA, Watauga Co, NC, 27 May (Josh Southern) through 10 Jul (Steven Howell); at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 3-4 Jun (Marilyn Westphal); and near Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, at about 2800 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch).

**Gray Kingbird:** Only one was found this summer, an individual that lingered around Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston Co, SC, 18 Jun (Carl & Cathy Miller) through 9 Jul (Charles Donnelly, et al.).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** This species successfully nested again this year atop a utility pole along Gunter Rd in Greenville Co, SC, as an adult male and



Swallow-tailed Kite, 8 June 2016, Bladen Co, NC. Photo by Jan Hansen.

an adult female were seen with two juveniles in July (m. obs.). Interestingly, as many as five flycatchers were reported at the site, the fifth being either a second adult female or an immature male.

**Tree Swallow:** At least five pairs nested in bluebird boxes in Dare Co, NC, this summer (Jeff Lewis).

**Cliff Swallow:** 66+ were seen around 40 active nests under two bridges over the Trent River in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 10 Jun (Sam Cooper).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One seen and heard singing at Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, NC, 3 Jul (Nate Swick) was very unusual for the summer period.

**Hermit Thrush:** This species continues to increase as a summer resident in appropriate habitat in the higher altitudes of the NC mountains. Four active nests were found along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail in the southern tip of Yancey Co, between 6 Jun and 25 Jul (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.). Another active nest was found on the western side of Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 3 Jun (Simpson, Westphal). Some notable counts included a total of 68 singing birds during the Black Mountains Spring Bird Count, during the last week of May (*vide* Simpson, Westphal); 11 singing males along Wilson Boundary Rd in Yancey Co, 4 Jun (Doug Johnston, Simon Thompson); six near Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, 19 Jun (Chris Welsh); five, four of which were singing, at Grandfather Mountain SP in Avery Co, 2 Jul (Teddy Wilcox, et al.); eight near Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, 3 Jul (Simpson, Westphal); four, three of which were singing, at Grandfather Mountain SP near the border of Caldwell Co and Watauga Co, 9 Jul (Wilcox); and three or four on Roan Mountain, throughout the period (Rick Knight). Unusual for northern forest habitat were four singing in the Great Craggy Mountains, Buncombe Co, at least 5000 feet above sea level, in May and June (Simpson, Westphal); one singing on Sugar Mountain, Avery Co, at about 4700 feet above sea level, 6





Crested Caracara, 18 June 2016, Dare Co, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Jun (Chris Kelly); and three at Pond Mountain Game Land, Ashe Co, between 4400 and 4900 feet above sea level, 10 Jun (Kelly).

**Cedar Waxwing:** There were multiple reports of waxwings lingering into June at sites scattered across the Carolinas. Successful nesting took place at SCE&G Park, at the north end of the dam on Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, where adults were seen building a nest 7 Jun, and then feeding two fledglings 11 Jul (Irvin Pitts). Nest-building was observed in a longleaf pine in northern Brunswick Co, NC, 31 May (John Carpenter); in cypress trees at Campbell Lake, Chesterfield Co, SC, 5 Jun (Bill Stokes); along the boardwalk on Wildlife Drive at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 6 Jun (Matt Janson, et al.); and on a BBS route in Jones Co, NC, 11 Jun (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller).

**Red Crossbill:** A few of the higher counts made in the NC mountains were eight along Wilson Boundary Rd in Yancey Co, 4 Jun (Doug Johnston, Simon Thompson); eight at Grandfather Mountain SP in Avery Co, 27 Jun (William Johnson); 13 along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail, Yancey Co, 30 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); eight at Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, 1 Jul (Simpson); nine on Mt Sterling Ridge, Haywood Co, 3 Jul (Robert & Stacy Johnson); and 22 at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 29 Jul (Jamie Adams).

**Pine Siskin:** A few of the higher counts made in the NC mountains this summer were 11 along Wilson Boundary Rd, Yancey Co, 4 Jun (Doug Johnston, Simon Thompson); 13 on Beech Mountain in Avery Co, 6 Jun (Cathy & Thomas McNeil); 12 at Grandfather Golf and Country Club, Avery Co, 23 Jun (William Johnson); and ten at Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, 30 Jun (John Thornton).

**American Redstart:** One seen on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 16 Jul (Jeff



Gray Kingbird, 02 July 2016, Charleston Co, SC. Photo by Pam Ford.

Lewis) was likely an early migrant.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Potential breeders in the NC mountains included a singing male along the Tanawha Trail in Avery Co, 1 Jun (Lauren Lampley); one singing male along the Cragway Trail at Grandfather Mountain SP in Watauga Co, 8 Jul (Clifton Avery); and three to five singing males on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, throughout the period (Rick Knight, m. obs.).

**Palm Warbler:** One on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Jul (David McLean) was a very early fall migrant.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Suggestive of attempted breeding in the NC mountains was one singing male on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, 9 Jun (Arch McCallum) and 14 Jun (Rick Knight); two singing males along the Grandfather Trail at Grandfather Mountain SP in Avery Co, 27 Jun (William Johnson); and one singing male along the Summit Trail at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 28 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Breeding was confirmed at Pond Mountain Game Land, Ashe Co, NC, when a fledgling was seen 2 Jun (Chris Kelly). Other sightings made in the NC mountains included one singing male along NC-93 near Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, at about 2900 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch); six at Pond Mountain Game Land, 10 Jun (Kelly); and one or two on Round Bald, Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, at about 5800 feet above sea level, throughout the period (Rick Knight, m. obs.).

**Lark Sparrow:** An adult seen and photographed along Howerton Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 21-24 Jul (Marty Wall, m. obs.) was unusual for the summer.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Five+ were seen at a known breeding site just east of

Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, in an un-mowed hayfield at about 2900 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch). For a second year in a row this species was found along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, in July—this year two were photographed 24 Jul (Simon Thompson), though no evidence of nesting has ever been found at that site.

**Song Sparrow:** One singing along the barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jun (John Fussell) was suggestive of attempted breeding there. That area is near the southern limit of the Atlantic subspecies' range.

**White-throated Sparrow:** After one was heard singing in a wooded area east of the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, Spartanburg Co, SC, 13-14 Jun (Josh Arrants), two were heard in the same area, one singing and the other calling, 11 Jul (Arrants). The second report of two birds is the most intriguing, as all previous summer sightings in the Carolinas have been of individuals. One seen amongst House Sparrows inside a Lowes Home Improvement store in Conway, Horry Co, SC, 25 Jun (Chris Hill) probably became trapped inside that building earlier in the year.

**Painted Bunting:** The adult male with an Indigo Bunting-like song returned to Wilson Educational Forest, Wilson Co, NC, for a second summer in a row, 16 Jun through 9 Jul (Ann Brice, m. obs.). This year it was joined by an adult female for a short period, 29 Jun (David Williams) through 1 Jul (Brice), though no evidence of nesting was found.

**Dickcissel:** The peak count at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, this year was 22 singing males on 30 Jun (John Fussell). Dickcissels continued from late spring at sites along Mayo Farm Rd in Martin Co, NC, throughout June (m. obs.), with a high count of four there on 27 Jun (Frank Enders) and along Baldwin Rd in Guilford Co, NC, where up to three were seen throughout the period into August (Marty Wall, m. obs.). Seven, including one recently fledged juvenile, near the intersection of Battleground Rd and Mt Olive Rd in Spartanburg Co, SC, 10 Jun (Pam Ford, et al.) was a good count. Other sightings included one on a BBS route in Camden Co, NC, 5 Jun (Jeff Lewis); two singing males along Old Mountain Rd in western Iredell Co, NC, 5 Jun (Monroe Parnell) through 1 Jul (Jeff Pippen); one singing male at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 16-20 Jun (Peggy Eubank, m. obs.); a singing male along Blackman Rd, Anderson Co, 20 Jun (Linda Montgomery) through 8 Jul (Scott Davis); two at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 3 Jul (Carroll Richard, et al.); and two singing males at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jul (Lewis).

**Bobolink:** Three singing males in a large un-mowed hayfield just east of Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, at about 2900 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch) were thought to be on territory. Nine in an agricultural area along the French Broad River in Dunns Rock, Transylvania Co, NC, 5 Jun (Jerry Griggs) were suggestive of attempted breeding in that area.